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REMARKS

In the Official Action, claims 1, 3, 9, and 23 were objected to for various informalities. By this Amendment, the Applicants adopted the Examiner's suggestion for correcting claims 1, 3, 9, and 23 to place them in an allowable condition.

The drawings were objected to for not illustrating the claim limitation of the gantry device moving the carrier along "a second axis." Also, regarding the merits, claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because the claim limitation of the gantry device moving along "the second axis" was not supported by an enabling specification. However, by this Amendment, independent claims 1, 7, 14, 18, and 23 now recite the gantry device moving along "at least one lateral axis" as fully disclosed in the specification to enable one skilled in the art. It is therefore submitted that the rejection of claims 1-26 and the objection to the drawings have been rendered moot.

Paragraphs 34-42 and the drawings were objected to for various informalities. By this Amendment, paragraphs 34 and 35 have been deleted and thus the objection to those paragraphs has been rendered moot. Paragraphs 36-42 were objected to for referring to "Figure 7," which was not included in the original application. Similarly, the drawings were objected to for not including Figure 7. In response, paragraph 36 has been amended to refer to Figure 6 instead of Figure 7. For that reason, the objection to the drawings and paragraphs 34-42 has been overcome.

The drawings were further objected to for not illustrating the claim limitation of the single-unit gantry-lift device. In accordance with the Abstract, reference number 42 designates the single-unit gantry-lift device in the drawings. Also, inspection of the drawings establishes that the feature identified by reference number 42 is in fact the gantry-lift device. For that reason, the

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specification has been amended to replace all occurrences of "single-unit gantry-lift device 46" with "single-unit gantry-lift device 42."

Claims 1-4 and 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Luria patent (U.S. No. 5,159,994). By this Amendment, claim 1 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 6. Additionally, claim 7 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 12. It is this submitted that the rejection of claims 1-4 and 7-11 has been rendered moot.

The Applicants acknowledge that claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 15-17, 19-22, and 24-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, for the reasons stated above, the rejection of the respective base claims has been overcome. Finally, allowance of claims 27-31 is noted and appreciated.

In view of the above remarks, the Applicants submit that the remaining claims in the case, namely claims 1-5, 7-11, and 12-31, are in an allowable condition. Therefore, the Applicants earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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